

AIR POUCH

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AMEMBASSY, VIENNA

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The Department of State, Washington

January 22, 1952

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WFTU - Japan

1. Matsukawa Case

On December 10, 1951, Liu Ming-I, Asian-Australasian Liaison Bureau of the WFTU, 1 Foutsien Street, Peiping, China, sent the following telegram to the WFTU: "Matsukawa appeal concludes middle December, we have urged Asian-Australasian unions to make final effort with protest; will do the same with other countries. Large sums of money sent from China. Will you consider sending donation from solidarity fund for defense and for families? If so we can arrange to get money to Japan-Asian-Australasian Liaison Bureau."

On December 13, Saillant cabled Liu Ming-I, "Agree financial liability families Matsukawa. We ask to make proposition sum."

2. Prisoners sentenced by the Occupation Forces' Military Courts

On November 14, 1951, Reiko Gawa, Representative of the Association of the Families of the Prisoners Convicted by the Military Courts in Japan and the National Solidarity Association of Japan, sent the WFTU a copy of their appeal, summarized as follows: The families of the men and women sentenced by the military court for alleged actions against occupation force policies appeal to all "fighters for peace". They condemn the Yoshida Government for concluding the separate Peace and Security Treaty with the U.S. "During the six year occupation, fundamental human rights in Japan have been completely denied and a great number of people were arrested or thrown into prisons, many because of their activities for peace, carried out with such slogans as 'Prevent War', 'Conclude Overall Peace Treaty'. We want national independence and the presentation of an open questionnaire to General MacArthur." The appeal condemns the manner in which the prisoners were sentenced and also the special law being enacted by the Yoshida Government for their retrial rather than release.

3. All-Japanese Citizen's Congress

On December 3, 1951, Mary Wolfard wrote the following letter to the All-Japanese Citizen's Congress, 1 Motofuji Buntyo-ku, Tokyo, Japan: "We have received and read with great interest your statement on peace and the current situation in Japan. The WFTU is, of course, in complete agreement with your

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determination to attain real peace in Japan and to fight against the remilitarisation of your country and the use of Japanese youth in a third world war.

"The World Federation of Trade Unions wishes the All-Japanese Citizens Congress success in their work of fighting for their stated aims."

4. New Year's Message and summary of activities of WFTU Liaison Bureau, Japan

On January 1, 1952, the WFTU Liaison Bureau in Japan sent the WFTU, Vienna, a letter, an excerpt of which follows:

"The WFTU's proposal of united action for improvement of living and working conditions to the ICFTU and other international trade unions, campaigns for defence of peace, specially for conclusion of Five Power Peace Pact, organisation and activation of peace committee at the working place, defence and improvement of social insurance, struggle for overall peace treaty with Japan and against remilitarisation of Japan, protest movement of the "Matsukawa case" and support of convening of Conference of the Asia-Pacific countries for overall Japan Peace Treaty and against remilitarisation of Japan, has not only indicated the struggles in Japan but also offered overflowing encouragement to the Japanese working class.

"The imperialists and their agents, the Yoshida Government, have arbitrarily ratified the "Separate Peace Treaty with Japan" and the "Security Pact between Japan and U.S.A." in the Japanese Diet, against the will of the Japanese people as well as peace-loving forces all over the world.

"The colonisation of Japan, the realisation of a militarised Japan, the revival of militarism and proposed manufacture of cannon fodder of the Japanese people are being attempted for aggressive war against Asia."

5. WFTU article on Japanese Peace Treaty

On January 2, 1952, Jim Hollyman, WFTU Publications, London, England, sent the following letter to Jeanine Dessau, WFTU, Vienna:

"Jack has already written to you about the article he is preparing on Japan. So far as the one I am preparing is concerned, it also does not in the least deal with the situation in Japan itself. Its main theme is the movement of opposition to Japanese rearmament and to the "Peace Treaty" in the countries bordering on the Pacific.

"It is held up because I am still waiting for a personal report on the recent conference in Australia of the Society for Non-Ratification of the Japanese Peace Treaty, which is to be the central point around which the article will be built up."


6. WFTU articles on Japan and approach to ICFTU

On January 7, 1952, John Wolfard, WFTU, Vienna, wrote Jack Woddie, WFTU Publications, London, England a letter, an excerpt of which follows:

"In reply to your letter on the article on the subject of Japanese competition, we are in agreement that you should proceed with this. We are preparing here one or two general articles on the economic situation and the trade union movement in Japan itself. Mary asks me to point out that the question of Japanese competition involves other countries than Britain, such as Australia, New Zealand and the United States and that the article should deal with these aspects of the situation as well. If you do not have material for these other countries, data can be added to your article when it is received.

"On the question of the conference between the ICFTU and WFTU on the question of the low wages and bad conditions of Japanese labour, we believe that the author of the article might well make a suggestion for such a conference, but it cannot come from the WFTU as an organisation. Can you give us some idea as to when we may expect this article so that we can plan our own articles on Japan."

For the High Commissioner:



BEN H. THIBODEAUX

Counselor of Embassy for Economic Affairs

cc: Rome
London
Paris
Brussels
OSR/Paris (2)
MEC/Vienna
Tokyo
Canberra
Wellington